



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS**  
**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
**MARCH 21, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Chair Eleanor R. Montano  
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos  
Frank S. Bacio  
Vito Cannella  
Rita Hall  
John A. Hammargren  
Carl E. Moore

**Others Present**

Detta Roberts, Commander, Sheriff's Department  
Warren Asmus, Captain, Sheriff's Department  
Ronald Hudson, Probation Department, Central Placement  
Belinda Gibson, Representing Candace Rhue, Auditor-Controller  
Elizabeth Howard, Int. Division Chief, Department of Children & Family Services  
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children & Family Services  
Michael J. Varela, Director, Dorothy F. Kirby Center

**Staff**

Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services  
Janice Davis, Commission Services Staff

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 14, 2007 MINUTES OF REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING**

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and unanimously carried, the minutes of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 were approved with no changes.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montano announced that she attended the Crisis Response Team presentation on March 20, 2007. She suggested that Department of Children and Family Services and Probation call Barbara Colwell, LCSW to set up a presentation.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS**

**Sheriff's Department:** Commander Roberts began by distributing the executive office list for the Sheriff's Department headquarters then gave the following report:

- Sheriff's Department is still working on the PCDI renovation.
- News media is interested in airing stories on the mentally ill in jails.
- Jesse Jackson visited the jail to promote AIDS awareness.
- The inmate count for today is 1,971 and rising.
- A new Assistant Chief Physician was hired to help take care of inmates.
- A verdict of guilty on all counts was reached in the Orozco trial for the murder of Deputy Jerry Ortiz in Hawaiian Gardens.
- Compton Court House is getting a new grinder.
- Downey Court House just installed a brand new air conditioner.
- Commander Richard J. Barrantes will be appointed to Chief; (2) Commanders have been promoted.
- The gates at Kenyon Justice Center are operational.
- The state has asked the Los Angeles Courts to cut 11 million dollars from their budget by next fiscal year.

## **Probation Department:**

- Mr. Michael J. Varela, Director of the Dorothy F. Kirby Center, introduced himself to the Commission.

Mr. Hudson reported the following:

- The Dorothy F. Kirby Center had new floors installed.
- A statistical breakdown of the incident reports at group homes was read:  
The following incidents were reported:
  - 96 AWOL's with 12 returns
  - 80 physical altercations
  - 8 physical restraints
  - 16 calls to the police
  - 11 suicide treats
  - 96 instances of substance abuse
  - 3 clients sent to psychiatric hospitals
  - 9 school incidents
  - 2 child abuse allegations
  - 59 injuries

- 37 illnesses
- 4 staff related incidents
- 13 sexual incidents – minor to minor
- 17 medication refusals
- 10 property damage

The Probation Department also reported the following information:

- Staff needs more training on preventing teen pregnancy and how to deal with it when it happens.
- Each staff member receives (6) weeks of training before working at a juvenile hall.

Mr. Varela reported the following:

- Overcrowding at Courts - If a detention tank is full, staff will assess the load and call for assistance, court operation is priority. Staff is assigned relief as a standard policy. In the event of an emergency the sheriff provides back-up as needed.
- Medical Emergencies at Courts – If a medical emergency arises, staff evaluates the situation, if the youth cannot be transported back to juvenile hall for medical attention, then staff is responsible for calling “911”.
- Television Programming at Courts – All movies must be rated “G” or “PG”, all others are strictly against policy.

**Auditor-Controller’s Office:** Ms. Gibson reported the following:

- Zenith Group Home is being audited.
- Cleo’s Group Home is closed.
- Jay Cee Dee Children’s Home has had fiscal and insurance issues; they have (2) children left at their facility and are in the process of placing them at other facilities.
- Ms. Gibson will follow-up on Rites of Passage RC to find out if they are still in operation.

**Department of Children and Family Services:** Ms. Howard reported the following:

- If a youth becomes pregnant in a group home, it is the social workers responsibility to help the minor make decisions regarding paternity.
- If a youth becomes pregnant by a staff member, criminal charges can only be filed if the youth is willing to name the individual.
- Each group home has their own policies and rules regarding passes and freedoms; if a youth violates a rule they are punished by removing a pass or freedom for a certain amount of time.
- Tana Group Home and Affirmative Action Group Home have been closed.
- San Gabriel Children’s Center has (6) sites and been placed on hold status because of concerns regarding supervision and sexual activity between residents.
- On behalf of the SBC, staff asked DCFS to send an email anytime a home is doing an outstanding job for recognition by the Commission. Ms. Howard said the Green Home for Boys is doing an excellent job.

- Ms. Howard will find out information regarding the Gang Violence Conference in April.

Sybil Brand Commission congratulated Ms. Elizabeth Howard in her new position as Interim Division Chief.

**Department of Mental Health:** No representative.

Sybil Brand Commission was disappointed that no representative was present.

Chair Montano and the Commissioners thanked the various department representatives for their participation and reports.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Fund currently has \$1,228.50.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Sandra Barbee, Chief Commission Services, reported the following:

- Commander Roberts, Sheriff's Department, called to inform the Commission that a new refrigerator was installed at Inglewood Court House.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Commissioners' Leadership Conference: Leading Edge Leadership in Times of Change will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2007. (6) Commissioners would like to attend.
- A "Los Angeles Times" article was distributed entitled "Struggles Continue at Juvenile Halls". Please read at your leisure.
- A "Los Angeles Business Journal" article was distributed entitled "QueensCare Next Step Tattoo Removal Program". Please read at your leisure.

The Sybil Brand Commission asked the Department of Children and Family Services which homes are most deserving of receiving gifts of Easter candy. DCFS recommended Green Home for Boys, Boys Republic Group Home and Camp (Kenyon) Scudder. Commission Services will call the group homes above and find out who is willing to pick up the Easter candy.

### **DISCUSSION OF WORK/TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR GROUP HOME CLIENTS**

Ordinance #72-88 "Transitional Job Opportunities Preference Program" was adopted on March 22, 2007 but will not take effect for 90 days from that date. New Request for Proposals (RFP's) will need to be submitted. The program will provide transitional job opportunities for individuals who are homeless or have been out of work for an extended period of time. SBC is interested in this program because it will benefit youths in group homes with possible job and training opportunities.

### **DISCUSSION SYBIL BRAND WEBPAGE**

The Sybil Brand Commission reviewed and discussed the webpage, links and made corrections. The webpage will be approved at the next SBC meeting on April 4, 2007.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received from WalMart Corporate Giving Program. Commission Services will look into WalMart's charitable donation programs. To be discussed at a later date.

### **FACILITY REPORTS**

#### **New West Technical Academy - Commissioner Bacio, Hall and Moore**

This facility was visited on March 15, 2007, and the facility was found to be in excellent condition; the Academy requires the students to wear uniforms; the staff is well dressed and the owner Dr. Manley believes in "Tough-Love".

#### **Heritage Group Home #4 - 53, #2 - Commissioner Hammargren and Montano**

This facility was visited on March 19, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** A client in this home is pregnant and would benefit from counseling or family planning; tires on the van need to be replaced.

#### **B & I Group Home #1 - 6, #1 - Commissioner Hammargren and Montano**

This facility was visited on March 20, 2007, and found in satisfactory condition.

#### **Dangerfield Group Home - 24, #1 - Commissioner Bacio, Hall and Moore**

Verbal report only.

This facility was visited on March 27, 2007, and one of the staff members had a death in the family and was not able to meet.

### **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was none.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

Discussion and Approval of Sybil Brand Webpage

Discussion and Distribution of Updated Group Home Site Directory

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janice Davis*

Commission Services Staff